



Appl. No. 09/749,284

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Appl. No. : 09/749,284
Applicant : Gene R. Anderson et al
Filed : December 26, 2000
TC/A.U. : 2877
Examiner : Juan D. Valentin

Confirmation No. 5815

Docket No. : 1613370-0005
Customer No. : 007470

Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Arlington, VA 22313-1450

PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT

Sir:

The Applicants respectfully request the Examiner to enter the following amendment
and to consider the following remarks:

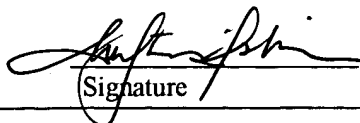
Amendments to the Claims are reflected in the listing of claims which begin on
page 2 of this paper.

Remarks/Arguments begin on page 16 of this paper.

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I hereby certify that this paper is being deposited with the United States Postal Service as Express Mail No. ER 535430429 US in an envelope addressed to: Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Arlington, VA 22313-1450, on May 24, 2004.

Christina Ishihara
Name


Signature

May 24, 2004
Date